

ADAM DENNIS.

MARCH 23, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ERDMAN, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 4744.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4744) to increase the pension of Adam Dennis, after duly considering the same, respectfully report as follows:

Adam Dennis enlisted on the 1st of October, A. D. 1861, as private soldier in Company G, Seventy-ninth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. On the 8th of October, 1862, at the battle of Perryville, Ky., he received a severe gunshot wound in his left groin, and at the battle of Chickamauga, September 19, 1863, received a severe wound in his left leg, about 5 or 6 inches above the knee. From the effect of these wounds his leg was amputated, and he now draws a pension of \$30 per month for loss of leg below the knee.

The amputation was made in a hurried and careless manner, and the fibula bone is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches shorter than the tibia, and both bones protrude, with not sufficient flaps to cover them, and for many years the pensioner has not been able to use an artificial limb but a small portion of the time, and when he does use the limb he is caused great suffering by reason thereof.

In the meantime, the wound in the left groin has so stiffened and weakened the hip joint that his left side is partially paralyzed from the effects of the wound and the attendant suffering. The pension received is but for the loss of leg below the knee, and the severe wound in the groin is not taken into consideration in his rating. This rating is insufficient, and the pension now received by the pensioner is grossly inadequate, and the pensioner should receive a pension equal at least to the loss of a leg, as the paralyzed condition of the pensioner's left side and his inability to wear an artificial limb entitles him, in the judgment of your committee, to the rating for the entire loss of his limb, and this, in consideration of his extreme suffering, would be but a proper consideration. In addition to the wounds referred to, the pensioner suffers severely from nasal catarrh, which was contracted in the Army. This disease now affects his bronchial tubes and lungs.

From communications placed before the committee, it was apparent that the Department recognized this as an exceptional case and within the proper province of this committee for action.

The applicant, a man of intelligence, makes the following sworn statement:

Statement of injuries of Adam Dennis, Company G, Seventy-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers.

My injuries are as follows: Gunshot wound in left groin, stiffening and weakening the hip joint; left leg off 5 inches below the knee; fibula bone $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches

shorter than the tibia, with both bones protruding, no flaps to cover bones, making it impossible to use an artificial limb most of the time without suffering and endangering my life. Whole left side partially affected by those wounds. Have also nasal catarrh, contracted in the Army, which now affects bronchial tubes and lungs. Heart also affected; can't say from what cause.

ADAM DENNIS,

Company G, Seventy-Ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers.

BEDFORD COUNTY, ss:

Personally appeared before me, a justice of the peace in and for the aforesaid county, Adam Dennis, who, being duly sworn according to law, doth depose and say that the above statement is true and correct.

Sworn and subscribed this 20th day of January, A. D. 1896.

CHAS. REILEY,

Justice of the Peace.

Your committee, therefore, in view of all the facts in this case, recommend that the pension of Adam Dennis be increased from \$30 per month, which he now receives, to the sum of \$50 per month, which your committee believes he is justly entitled to, and therefore recommend that the bill do pass.

○